Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## Raising the Waste Reduction Bar:
*Putting recycling on the docket in Guam's law firms and legal offices*

Chace Anderson
Vice President
Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc.
Guam Solid Waste Receiver

Presentation at the 2008 Annual District Conference
October 9, 2008



Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## About Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc.

- Dedicated exclusively to solid waste management
- Headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia
- Since 1980, an objective advisor to governments, institutions, and businesses, implementing innovative solutions for managing waste and recycling
- Principals and senior staff have over 150 years of combined experience
- Experience working with solid waste issues on island communities (Maui, Cayman Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands)
- "Change Agents" that produce better services and facilities



Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## Background

- Guam's history of noncompliance
  - 22 years of violation of the Clean Water Act
  - Minimal compliance with terms of 1994 Consent Decree with EPA
  - Ordot Dump remained open, leaching discharge; no funding for Consent Decree projects, including new landfill
- March 17, 2008. District Court Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood appointed GBB Receiver
  - Gave GBB full powers to bring Guam into compliance with the Consent Decree
  - GBB assumed all responsibilities and functions of the Solid Waste Management Division

Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## GBB's Objective

Work with Guam's government, the Solid Waste Management Division, solid waste companies, the people of Guam, Guam businesses and the U.S. military to establish a long-term, financially viable and sustainable waste management system for Guam.

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 4

Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## Guam Is Becoming Greener!
*Receiver progress to date*

- July 17. Materials ban at Ordot Dump
  - No cardboard, vegetative waste, untreated wood, inert material (bricks, rocks, C&D materials)
  - Rules adjusted for compactor containers
- Summer 2008. New equipment purchased: Trucks and three new recycling containers
- September 15. Recycling program launched with 3 drop-off sites – for residents and businesses – accepting cardboard, mixed paper and glass at Dededo, Agat and Ordot Dump

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 5

Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## Why Recycle?

- Diverts material from the Ordot Dump; extends the life of the Dump until a new landfill can be built
- Conserves energy and resources
- Saves money
- Reduces emissions of greenhouse gases
- Encourages development of recycling businesses and infrastructure on the island

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 6

## Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

### Time to End the Paper Chase in Law Offices and Courts

Law firms consume a blizzard of paper!

- Copier/printer paper use per attorney:
  20,000 – 100,000 sheets per year.
  100,000 sheets = a half ton of paper!
  (Source: Arnold & Porter national survey of law firms, small to large, 2006).
  - Life cycle of a half ton of paper, from production to recycling, results in generation of about 4.5 tons of CO2-equivalent GHG.
  - Paper production is second only to fossil fuels as human source of CO2. (Source: World Resources Institute)
  - Using less paper saves resources and reduces purchasing costs.
- It's not just copier paper. Other law office waste: cardboard, cans, bottles, jars, newspapers, envelopes, file folders, batteries, and electronic waste.

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 7

## Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

### Case Study
*What one law firm does*

Foster, Pepper & Shefelman, one of largest law firms in Pacific Northwest reduced its waste stream by 45%.

- Uses scanners on every copy machine to convert information to pdf format, allowing information transfer by e-mail, not paper.
- Converts transcripts to CD format
- Establishes extranets for large clients, giving client 24/7 access to files and materials in electronic format
- Purchases business papers that are "tree free," made from stocks from recycled cotton from cutting room floors.
- Recycles most paper, glossy magazines, window envelopes, post-it notes.
- Copy paper contains 35% post-consumer content
- Purchases supplies with recycled content, where possible

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 8

## Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

### Case Study
*What one law firm does (cont'd)*

Foster Pepper also recycles:

- Styrofoam packing peanuts – Used in house or taken to a business that can use them
- Toner cartridges – Rebuilt and recycled by the vendor
- Holiday cards – Recycled at children's hospitals
- Cell phones – Recycled at centers for domestic violence
- Electronic waste – If not leased, given to charities or schools, or sold to employees
- Batteries – Recycled or disposed properly
- Law books – Recycled 6,000 volumes with used booksellers, after conversion to electronic format
- When destroying old documents, considers what can be recycled

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 9

Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## More Recycling Success Stories

A New York law firm (Source: GreenOrder law firm study)

- Reduced paper use by 15%-20% with double-sided printing
- Saved $23,754 in paper costs by double-sided copying just 10% of copies in small, networked printers and 15% in large, high volume printers.
- Saved $8,741 in postage: double-sided copies are lighter

Dickstein Shapiro's (Washington, D.C.) Environmental Committee monitors the firm's carbon footprint

- Recycles paper and prints double-sided
- Replaced disposable with reusable cups made of 100% corn plastic

Farella Braun & Martel in San Francisco

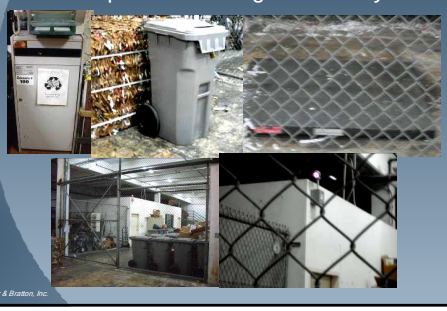
- Recycles paper, batteries, computers, supplies and furniture

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 10

Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## Special Challenges: Security



GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 11

Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

## New Program from the ABA and EPA: *The ABA-EPA Law Office Climate Challenge*

- Encourages law firms to take specific steps to conserve energy and resources – and reduce emissions of GHG
- Two-year pilot initiated March 2007; more than 100 law firms, courts and government legal offices are enrolled
- Law firms meet the challenge by participating in one of more of the following:
  1. Adopt best practices for office paper management: reduce paper use, increase recycled content, and increase paper recycling
  2. EPA's WasteWise program: save energy by reducing waste and adopting best practices for office paper management
  3. EPA's Green Power Partnership: purchase energy from renewable sources to cover part of electricity use
  4. EPA's Energy Star program: reduce energy by 10% by purchasing Energy Star-designated equipment.

Website: www.abanet.org/environ/climatechallenge

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 12

## Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

### What your office can do

Target paper first: Reduce paper use and buy recycled!

- Set copiers and printers to default double-sided printing
- Use printer/copier software that includes scan to e-mail and e-faxing
- Send information electronically when possible
- Promote a "think before you print or copy" ethic at your firm. Print on e-mail signatures: *Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*
- Set up extranet sites where documents can be shared with clients
- Avoid excessive printing by circulating or posting memos, documents, articles or reports
- Ask vendors to supply recycled paper with high post-consumer content

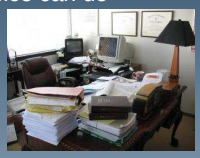
GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 13

## Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

### What your office can do

- Establish a recycling committee
- Work with building management to establish a recycling program and work with your waste collector
- Provide office recycling bins
- Get custodial staff on board
- Protect confidentiality of documents
- Identify what other materials can be recycled and collect them, too!
- Establish a rewards program for employees to encourage participation
- Purchase office products made from recycled materials (pencils, paper, envelopes, carpet, etc.). Ask suppliers to provide recycled content products.



GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 14

## Guam SOLID WASTE RECEIVER

### Questions?

www.guamsolidwastereceiver.org

GBB SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. 15